

According to the National Institute on Drug Addiction (NIDA), one in four Americans has a primary family member who is struggling with addiction. **Startling right?**

To help address this problem, HBO selected Detroit as one of 30 targeted communities to premiere its documentary titled *Addiction*. As a result of this opportunity, the Detroit area's National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) as well as the Detroit Recovery Project created a task force to further understand addiction as a treatable brain disease.

The Michigan Addiction Project, along with other local agencies are working hard to educate communities statewide by being a voice for the recovery community. Through media channels, advocacy and educational platforms, the task force is a resource for chemically dependent individuals and families who are affected by addiction.

Purpose:

Through education and partnerships, the Michigan Addiction Project is committed to improving how society views addiction, treatment and recovery. Proper treatment can have a positive impact on Michigan's communities.



Michigan Addiction Project
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Addiction
communities take action

ADDICTION
AFFECTS
EVERYONE
THE SOLUTION:
WHEEL-GLORI
RECOVERY

WHAT IS ADDICTION?

Uncontrollable and compulsive, even in the face of negative health and social consequences is an example of how the American Medical Association and other health organizations define addiction (Leshner, 2003). *

According to Leshner (2003), addiction is a brain disease expressed by acts of compulsive behavior. Addiction is not something that is demanded, nor is it something that can easily be tackled. Thus, it's important to realize that individuals cannot simply overcome addiction alone.

The first step to helping more individuals overcome their battle with addiction is to change society's perception that the disease is a moral failure. In addition, reverse the belief that individuals who struggle with addiction can stop if they decide to stop.

*Leshner, I.A. (2001). *Addiction is a brain disease. Issues in Science and Technology*, 17, 75-80.

GOALS

- Millions of Americans have achieved sobriety with the help of treatment programs. We can continue this trend by making treatment services easily accessible and available to the community.
- Further understanding that addiction should be treated the same way that other chronic diseases are treated.
- Change society's perception that addiction is a moral failure, but rather a disease that is treatable.
- Stop insurance discrimination from hindering individuals with addiction disorders from getting the same insurance protection as individuals with other chronic health issues.

For more information on this project, please contact Benjamin Jones, president of the NCADD at 313.369.5411 or Andre Johnson, president of the Detroit Recovery Project at 313-876-0770.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If You Do Not Have HBO

Apply for a free series of HBO documentaries, one of which is the 90-minute documentary titled "Addiction." To request an application, e-mail kcrawford@ncadd-detroit.org or download an application at www.semcaprevention.org/addictionhbo.html.

Host a "House Party"

This is an opportunity to view the documentary and engage in discussion with your friends and family members about addiction.

Hold a Town Hall Meeting in Your Community

Begin talking about addiction by hosting a town hall meeting in your community. The town hall meetings are designed to help communities cope as well as individuals with addictive disorders.

Community Partners in this Project:

HBO



NCADD



NAACA

